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WHEEL HOLDER ASSEMBLY FOR A SKATEBOARD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to skateboards and, more specifically, to a wheel holder assembly for skateboard, which
5 supports the wheels stably, enabling the steering direction of the skateboard to be smoothly controlled.

Riding a skateboard has become one of the most hot sports game for young children. A skateboard is generally comprised of a footplate, and two wheel holder assemblies mounted on the bottom
10 sidewall of the footplate to hold a respective pair of wheels. FIG. 1 illustrates a wheel holder assembly installed in the bottom sidewall of a footplate to hold a pair of wheels according to the prior art. This structure of wheel holder assembly comprises a mounting frame D fixedly fastened to the bottom sidewall of the footplate, a
15 screw bolt C fastened to the mounting frame D, a wheel holder frame A pivoted to the screw bolt C, and two compression springs B respectively mounted on the screw bolt C and supported on top and bottom sides of the wheel holder frame A. This structure of wheel holder assembly is still not satisfactory in function. Because
20 the compression springs are supported on the top and bottom sides of the wheel holder frame, they are frequently compressed and released and wear quickly with use. Further, because the compressive power of the compression spring cannot be relatively

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adjusted subject to the steering direction of the skateboard, the skateboard is less stable when changing the steering direction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been accomplished to provide a wheel
5 holder assembly, which eliminates the aforesaid drawbacks. It is
one object of the present invention to provide a wheel holder
assembly, which is durable in use. It is another object of the present
invention to provide a wheel holder assembly, which keeps the
skateboard in a balanced status when changing the steering
10 direction. According to the invention, the wheel holder assembly
comprises a mounting frame fixedly fastened to the footplate of a
skateboard, a screw bolt mounted in the mounting frame, a hook
plate mounted on the screw bolt and hooked on a barrel at the
mounting frame, a swivel wheel holder frame mounted on the screw
15 bolt to hold a pair of wheels, a first corrugated washer and a second
corrugated washer mounted on said screw bolt and matched with
each other between the hook plate and the wheel holder frame, the
first corrugated washer having a locating groove engaged with
a locating rib^a at the wheel holder frame for enabling the first
20 corrugated washer to be turned with the wheel holder frame about
the screw bolt relative to the second corrugated washer, and a
compression spring mounted on the screw bolt to force the wheel
holder frame against the first corrugated washer. Because the

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compression spring is stopped at the front side of the wheel holder frame, it receives less pressure when the skateboard runs over an uneven road surface. Therefore, the compression spring does not wear quickly with use. Further, when the rider changes the steering direction of the skateboard, the first corrugated washer is moved with the wheel holder frame over the second corrugated washer to compress or release the compression spring.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a wheel holder assembly installed in a skateboard according to the prior art.

FIG. 2 is an exploded view of a wheel holder assembly according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 is an elevational assembly view of the wheel holder assembly according to the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a sectional view of the wheel holder assembly according to the present invention, *excluding the corrugated washers*

FIG. 5A illustrates the non-compressive status of the compression spring in the wheel holder assembly according to the present invention.

FIG. 5B illustrates the compressed status of the compression spring in the wheel holder assembly according to the present invention.

FIG. 6 shows the wheel holder assembly installed in the

skateboard according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3, a wheel holder assembly in accordance with the present invention is generally comprised of a mounting frame 10, a screw bolt 12, a swivel wheel holder frame 20, a first corrugated washer 30, a second corrugated washer 40, a compression spring 50, a hook plate 60, and a lock nut 70. The mounting frame 10 is fixedly fastened to the bottom sidewall of the footplate of a skateboard (not shown), comprising a barrel 11 and a countersunk hole 13 spaced from and axially disposed in alignment with the barrel 11. The barrel 11 has a locating notch 111. The wheel holder frame 20 comprises two fixed wheel axles 21 axially aligned at two sides in ^{a transverse} ~~X-axis~~ direction and adapted to support a respective wheel, a pivot hole 22 extended in ^{a longitudinal} ~~Y-axis~~ direction, and ^{with respect to the footplate} ^{with respect to the footplate} ~~two~~ ^a locating ribs 23 disposed at the back sidewall thereof and aligned at ^{one} ~~two~~ sides of one end of the pivot hole 22. The first corrugated washer 30 comprises a center through hole 32, and a locating groove 31 disposed at one side across the center through hole 32. The second corrugated washer 40 matches the first corrugated washer 30, comprising a stub center tube 41 inserted through the center through hole of the first corrugated washer 30. The hook plate 60 is an elongated member comprising a center through hole 62, and a hooked head 61 at its one end.

Referring to FIG. 4 and FIGS. 2 and 3 again, the screw bolt 12 is mounted in the countersunk hole 13 and inserted in proper order through the center through hole 32 of the first corrugated washer 30 and the center stub tube 41 of the second washer 40 and the center through hole 62 of the hook plate 60 and then screwed up with the lock nut 70 to hold the corrugated washers 30 and 40 inside the barrel 11 of the mounting frame 10. The hook plate 60 is stopped between the barrel 11 and the locknut 70, having its hooked head 61 hooked on the locating notch 111 of the barrel 11. The compression spring 50 is mounted on the screw bolt 12 and stopped between the wheel holder frame 20 and the peripheral wall of the countersunk hole 13 of the mounting frame 10. Further, two washers 51 and 52 are mounted on the screw bolt 12, and respectively stopped between the countersunk hole 13 and the wheel holder frame 20 at two distal ends of the compression spring 50. When assembled, the locating ribs 23 of the wheel holder assembly 20 are maintained engaged with the locating groove 31 of the first corrugated washer 30.

Referring to FIGS. 5A and 5B, when the rider gives a downward pressure to one lateral side of the skateboard to change the steering direction of the skateboard, the first corrugated washer 30 is rotated with the wheel holder frame 20 in one direction through one angle and moved over the second corrugated washer 40.

When moving over the corrugated face of the second corrugated washer 40, the first corrugated washer 30 is forced to move the wheel holder frame 20 axially along the screw bolt 12 against the compression spring 50, thereby causing the compression spring 50 to be compressed. After the biased pressure disappeared, the compression spring 50 immediately returns to its former shape (returns from the compressed status shown in FIG. 5B to the non-compressive status shown in FIG. 5A) to push the wheel holder frame 20 back to its former position, enabling the skateboard to move straight ahead.

While only one embodiment of the present invention has been shown and described, it will be understood that various modifications and changes could be made thereunto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention disclosed.